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Presents

"San Jose Jazz Fall Concert Series"

Rudresh Mahanthappa: Bird Calls
Sunday, October 16, 2016
Cafe Stritch (374 S. 1st St, San Jose, CA)
Time: 7 pm

Rez Abbasi & Junction
Friday, October 28, 2016
Cafe Pink House (14577 Big Basin Way, Saratoga, CA)
Time: 7:30 pm

Mariachi Flor de Toloache
Sunday, October 30, 2016
Mexican Heritage Plaza (1700 Alum Rock Ave, San Jose, CA)
Time: 4:30 pm

"Rudresh Mahanthappa is one of the most important alto saxophone voices working in jazz today." -*Jazz Times*

"[Mariachi Flor de Toloache's] members come by their mariachi skills honestly and with endless practice, while still looking for ways to take chances." -*NPR Music*

"The jazz guitarist Rez Abbasi has had a recent run of strong and thoughtful albums, inspired by one or another form of cultural crosstalk." -*The New York Times*

San Jose, Calif. -- Celebrated for its annual Winter Fest and Summer Fest programming, the iconic Bay Area institution **San Jose Jazz** is proud to present a "Fall Concert Series" featuring an exceptional lineup of artists including **Rudresh Mahanthappa: Bird Calls** (Cafe Stritch: Oct. 16), **Rez Abbasi & Junction** (Cafe Pink House: Oct. 28), and **Mariachi Flor de Toloache** (SJZ Boom Box Stage at Mexican Heritage Plaza: Oct. 30).

Hailed by *The New York Times* as possessing "a roving intellect and a bladelikey articulation," composer and saxophonist Rudresh Mahanthappa has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, two New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships, and numerous commissions. Mahanthappa has been named "Alto Saxophonist of the Year" in four out of the past five years in *DownBeat's* International Critics Polls.

Guitarist and composer Rez Abbasi has become one of the most significant musicians on the current scene. Voted #1 "Rising-Star Guitarist" in 2013's *DownBeat* Critics Poll and placed in the "Top 10 Guitarists" in 2015 & 2016, alongside Bill Frisell and Pat Metheny, Abbasi has created a singular sound that is stimulated by his Pakistani-American upbringing.

The Latin GRAMMY® Award-nominated Mariachi Flor de Toloache is the first and only all-female Mariachi band. The septet has performed on the famed [NPR "Tiny Desk Concert Series"](#) as well as on the national news station CNN.

Highlights of Confirmed Artists:

Rudresh Mahanthappa presents the music from his critically acclaimed Charlie Parker-inspired album, *Bird Calls*. The recording is a non-traditional tribute, as it contains no Parker compositions. The homage to the late great Parker lies within Mahanthappa's original compositions inspired by particular Parker melodies and solos. *Bird Calls* has earned high praises including "Best Album of the Year" from *DownBeat's* International Critics Poll and NPR Music's Jazz Critics Polls as well as in *The New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and *Huffington Post*, among others. *Village Voice* named him as their "Best Jazz Artist." Mahanthappa is one of the featured musicians on Arturo O'Farrill's *Cuba: The Conversation Continues* and the track he performed on, "The Afro Latin Suite," won a 2016 GRAMMY® Award.

At Cafe Stritch, Mahanthappa will be joined by a stellar quintet of forward-thinking musicians, which includes some long-time collaborators as well as 20-year-old trumpet prodigy **Adam O'Farrill**, **Joshua White** on piano, **Thomson Kneeland** on bass and **Dan Weiss** on drums. Tickets are \$20 SJZ Members / \$25 General Admission [PURCHASE TICKETS](#), sanjosejazz.org

"**Rez Abbasi** is living, breathing proof that jazz music can be as vital and boundary-pushing as ever," AllAboutJazz. Abbasi has honed his skills through performances and recordings with many jazz greats including GRAMMY® Award winner Ruth Brown, Peter Erskine, Kenny Werner, Dave Douglas, Tim Berne, Billy Hart and a host of others. He has won several composition commissions and has recorded 12 albums. His 2009, *Things to Come*, with his long-standing group Invocation, featuring Mahanthappa and pianist Vijay Iyer, was listed as one of *DownBeat's* 'best albums of the decade.' Abbasi continues on his path to "what is turning out to be one of jazz's most intriguing journeys," *Jazz Times*.

At Café Pink House, Abbasi will be joined by his new group, Junction: featuring (Elvin Jones alumni), **Mark Shim** on tenor saxophone and MIDI wind-controller, **Marko Crncec** on keyboards and **Kenny Grohowski** on drums. Tickets are \$30/\$33 and available on cafepinkhouse.com

Since the band's inception in 2008, **Mariachi Flor de Toloache** has been winning the hearts of music fans – both mainstream and traditional mariachi fans alike – through their enlightened interpretation of traditional mariachi instruments. The talented ladies that comprise Mariachi Flor de Toloache come from diverse ethnicities and musical backgrounds to transcend culture and gender through the forging of new paths for mariachi music. Like the legendary Toloache flower used in Mexico as a love potion, Flor de Toloache casts a spell over their audiences with soaring vocals and physical elegance. Their self-produced debut album earned them a nomination for a Latin GRAMMY® in the "Best Ranchera Album" category. They've graced international stages from Asia to Europe and the U.S., and recently supported Dan Auerbach of The Black Keys' new side-project, The Arcs.

Mariachi Flor de Toloache performs a free concert on the SJZ Boom Box at the Dia De Los Muertos celebration *La Ultima Parada* taking place at the Mexican Heritage Plaza on October 30. *La Ultima Parada* showcases the vibrancy of Mexican culture through a collection of cultural festivities, dances, and musical performances that honor the living and the dead. The School of Arts & Culture at the Mexican Heritage Plaza opens its doors to *La Ultima Parada* at the contemporary cultural landmark in San Jose. Mariachi Flor de Toloache performs outdoors at 4:30 pm. Tickets to *La Ultima Parada* are \$5 and can be purchased on LaUltimaParada.org

Mariachi Flor de Toloache's performance is supported by a grant from the Consulate General of Mexico in San Jose.

About San Jose Jazz

Founded in 1986, San Jose Jazz is a public benefit corporation celebrating jazz as a dynamic, evolving art form and is producer of the annual San Jose Jazz Summer Fest and Winter Fest. With its singular music programming and innovative educational offerings, San Jose Jazz preserves the jazz tradition while actively supporting the next generation of performers within the genre and beyond. For more information, please visit sanjosejazz.org.

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Interviews and hi-res images are available upon request.